

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER/BTK
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L/PM:SORLINS (DRAFT)
DOD/ISA:CAPT.L. MAY (DRAFT)

-----220102Z 056330 /62

O 220032Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AV, BB

SUBJECT:NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY FACILITIES

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO SEND A NEGOTIATING TEAM TO ANTIGUA AND BARBADOS TO OPEN TALKS ABOUT OUT MILITARY FACILITIES AS REQUESTED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. OUR SUGGESTED SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

MAY 7-8, ARRIVE ANTIGUA.

MAY 9-11, MEET WITH ANTIGUAN OFFICIALS IN ST. JOHNS.

MAY 12-13, MEET WITH BARBADIAN OFFICIALS IN BRIDGETOWN.

2. WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RETURN TO ANTIGUA AND/OR TO EXTEND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BARBADIAN OFFICIALS BEYOND MAY 12-13. SCHEDULE THEREFORE IS OPEN-CONFIDENTIAL

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ENDED.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT GOA TO DETERMINE WHETHER MAY 9-11 IS CONVENIENT PERIOD TO OPEN TALKS WITH GOA. SIMILARLY, REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK GOB CONCURRENCE FOR MAY 12-13 DISCUSSIONS.

4. YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE THAT WE ANTICIPATE RETURNING TO ANTIGUA, SHOULD MAY 9-11 PROVE INSUFFICIENT TIME TO REACH AGREEMENT. IF LENGTH OF TEAM'S VISIT IN EITHER COUNTRY IS QUESTIONED, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT QUICKLY. SHOULD AGREEMENT NOT BE REACHED, HOWEVER, THIS FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WILL AT LEAST SERVE TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT DIFFERENCES MUST BE RESOLVED.

5. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS PRIOR TO OPENING DISCUSSIONS. BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ENTIRE TEAM TO STOP IN BRIDGETOWN EN ROUTE TO ANTIGUA, AS WE HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO BE PRESENT FOR ANTIGUAN TALKS, AT LEAST FOR OPENING SESSION. PLEASE ADVISE IF DCM CAN MEET WITH TEAM IN ANTIGUA MAY 8 AND PARTICIPATE IN OPENING SESSION. ALSO, DOES EMBASSY WISH TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE TALKS?

6. COMPOSITION US TEAM NOT YET FIRM. WE NOW ANTICIPATE TOTAL OF SIX FOR ANTIGUA, SEVEN FOR BARBADOS. WE WILL INFORM YOU OF TEAM COMPOSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. REQUEST YOU MAKE APPROPRIATE HOTEL RESERVATIONS, I.E., SIX SINGLES AT MODERATE PRICED HOTEL IN ANTIGUA, SEVEN SINGLES IN BARBADOS.

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8. WE WILL PROVIDE PRECISE ETA AND FLIGHT NUMBERS AS AVAILABLE.
VANCE

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NNN

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